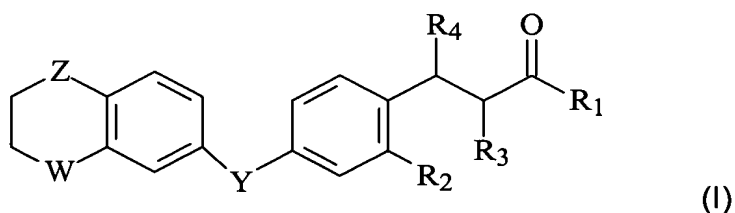


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. Cancelled.
2. (Currently Amended) A cosmetic/pharmaceutical regime or regimen for treating disorders of the barrier function of human skin, wherein said disorders of the barrier function of human skin are selected from the group consisting of disorders of the secretion of epidermal lipids, skin disorders in premature babies born before 33 weeks gestation, chapped lips, and blisters resulting from mechanical friction, comprising administering to an individual afflicted with a disorder of the barrier function of his or her skin, for such period of time as required to elicit the desired response, an effective skin barrier function-restoring amount of at least one polycyclic aromatic compound having the structural formula (I):



in which R_1 is a hydrogen atom or an $-OR_5$ radical, wherein R_5 is as defined below;
 R_2 is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical; R_3 and R_4 , which may be identical or different, are each a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical, with the proviso that R_2

and R₃, may together form a naphthalene ring with the adjacent benzene ring; Y is an oxygen atom, an S(O)_n radical or an N-R₆ radical, wherein n and R₆ are as defined below; Z and W, which may be identical or different, are each -CR₇R₈-, -O- or -S(O)_m, wherein m, R₇ and R₈ are as defined below; R₅ is a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched alkyl radical having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, or a mono- or polyhydroxyalkyl radical; R₆ is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical; R₇ and R₈, which may be identical or different, are each a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical; n is 0, 1 or 2; m is 0, 1 or 2; or salt thereof.

3. (Original) The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 2, comprising treating skin disorders in premature babies born before 33 weeks, chapped lips, or blisters.

4-7. Cancelled.

8. (Previously Presented) The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 2, said at least one polycyclic aromatic compound (I) being a PPAR receptor activator.

9. (Original) The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 2, said at least one polycyclic aromatic compound (I) comprising at least one lower alkyl radical selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, butyl, tert-butyl and hexyl radicals.

10. (Original) The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 2, said at least one polycyclic aromatic compound (I) comprising at least one linear or branched alkyl radical having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, propyl, 2-ethylhexyl, octyl, dodecyl, hexadecyl and octadecyl radicals.

11. (Original) The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 2, said at least one polycyclic aromatic compound (I) comprising at least one monohydroxyalkyl radical selected from the group consisting of 2-hydroxyethyl, 2-hydroxypropyl and 3-hydroxypropyl radicals.

12. (Original) The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 2, said at least one polycyclic aromatic compound (I) comprising at least one polyhydroxyalkyl radical selected from the group consisting of 2,3-dihydroxypropyl, 2,3,4-tri-hydroxybutyl and 2,3,4,5-tetrahydroxypentyl radicals and the pentaerythritol residue.

13. (Original) The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 2, said at least one polycyclic aromatic compound (I) comprising Compound 1: 6-(5,5,8,8-tetramethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphth-2-yloxy)naphthalene-2-carboxylic acid; Compound 2: 3-[4-(5,5,8,8-tetramethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphth-2-yloxy)phenyl]acrylic acid; Compound 3: 6-(5,5,8,8-tetramethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphth-2-ylsulfanyl)naphthalene-2-carboxylic acid; Compound 4: 3-[4-(5,5,8,8-tetramethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphth-2-yloxy)phenyl]but-2-enoic acid; or Compound 5: 6-

(5,5,8,8-tetramethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphth-2-ylamino)naphthalene-2-carboxylic acid.

14. (Original) The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 2, said at least one polycyclic aromatic compound (I) comprising 6-(5,5,8,8-tetramethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphth-2-ylsulfanyl)naphthalene-2-carboxylic acid.

15. (Original) The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 2, comprising administering said at least one polycyclic aromatic compound (I) via enteral or parenteral route.

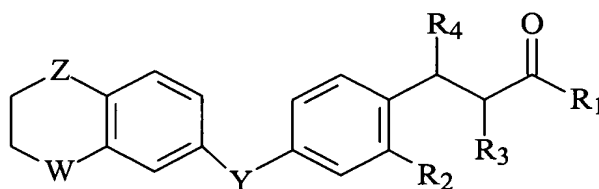
16. (Original) The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 2, comprising administering said at least one polycyclic aromatic compound (I) via topical or ocular route.

17. (Original) The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 2, comprising coadministering to such individual an effective amount of at least one retinoid, vitamin D, corticosteroid, agent for combating free radicals, α -hydroxy or α -keto acid, or ion channel blocker.

18-21. Cancelled.

22. (Currently Amended) A cosmetic/pharmaceutical regime or regimen for treating disorders of the barrier function of human skin, wherein said disorders of the

barrier function of human skin are selected from the group consisting of disorders of the secretion of epidermal lipids, skin disorders in premature babies born before 33 weeks gestation, chapped lips, and blisters resulting from mechanical friction, comprising topically applying onto the affected area of the skin of an individual afflicted with a disorder of the barrier function of his or her skin, for such period of time as required to elicit the desired response, an effective skin barrier function-restoring amount of at least one polycyclic aromatic compound having the structural formula



(I):

in which R₁ is a hydrogen atom or an -OR₅ radical, wherein R₅ is as defined below; R₂ is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical; R₃ and R₄, which may be identical or different, are each a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical, with the proviso that R₂ and R₃, may together form a naphthalene ring with the adjacent benzene ring; Y is an oxygen atom, an S(O)_n radical or an N-R₆ radical, wherein n and R₆ are as defined below; Z and W, which may be identical or different, are each -CR₇R₈-, -O- or -S(O)_m-, wherein m, R₇ and R₈ are as defined below; R₅ is a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched alkyl radical having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, or a mono- or polyhydroxyalkyl radical; R₆ is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical; R₇ and R₈, which may be identical or different, are each a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical; n is 0, 1 or 2; m is 0, 1 or 2; or salt thereof.

23. (Previously Presented) The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 22, comprising treating skin disorders in premature babies born before 33 weeks, chapped lips, or blisters.

24. (Previously Presented) The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 22, said at least one polycyclic aromatic compound (I) being a PPAR receptor activator.

25. (Previously Presented) The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 22, said at least one polycyclic aromatic compound (I) comprising at least one lower alkyl radical selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, butyl, tert-butyl and hexyl radicals.

26. (Previously Presented) The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 22, said at least one polycyclic aromatic compound (I) comprising at least one linear or branched alkyl radical having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, propyl, 2-ethylhexyl, octyl, dodecyl, hexadecyl and octadecyl radicals.

27. (Previously Presented) The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 22, said at least one polycyclic aromatic compound (I) comprising at least one monohydroxyalkyl radical selected from the group consisting of 2-hydroxyethyl, 2-hydroxypropyl and 3-hydroxypropyl radicals.

28. (Previously Presented) The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 22, said at least one polycyclic aromatic compound (I) comprising at least one polyhydroxyalkyl radical selected from the group consisting of 2,3-dihydroxypropyl, 2,3,4-tri-hydroxybutyl and 2,3,4,5-tetrahydroxypentyl radicals and the pentaerythritol residue.

29. (Previously Presented) The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 22, said at least one polycyclic aromatic compound (I) comprising Compound 1: 6-(5,5,8,8-tetramethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphth-2-yloxy)naphthalene-2-carboxylic acid; Compound 2: 3-[4-(5,5,8,8-tetramethyl-5,6,7,8- tetrahydronaphth-2-yloxy)phenyl]acrylic acid; Compound 3: 6-(5,5,8,8-tetramethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphth-2-ylsulfanyl)naphthalene-2-carboxylic acid; Compound 4: 3-[4-(5,5,8,8-tetramethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphth-2-yloxy)phenyl]but-2-enoic acid; or Compound 5: 6-(5,5,8,8-tetramethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphth-2-ylamino)naphthalene-2-carboxylic acid.

30. (Previously Presented) The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 22, said at least one polycyclic aromatic compound (I) comprising 6-(5,5,8,8-tetramethyl-5,6,7,8- tetrahydronaphth-2-ylsulfanyl)naphthalene-2-carboxylic acid.

31. (Previously Presented) The regime or regimen as defined by Claim 22, comprising coadministering to such individual an effective amount of at least one retinoid, vitamin D, corticosteroid, agent for combating free radicals, α -hydroxy or α -keto acid, or ion channel blocker.